

showing the visual display device incorporating an audio system (33-2) and “plug-in” modules (33-3) to provide image media such as by a DVD player or Television tuner or PC-card or similar media source and a removable projector unit (33-4). The format of the enclosure with all elements collapsed therein is shown as item (33-5).

Within the scope of the above described embodiments, “hinges” or “hinging”, “folds” or “folding”, “rotates” or “rotating” can be considered to generally refer to mechanisms or any material or mechanical property that permits that members, elements or parts thereof can move in an rotating manner relative to one another around a common real or virtual axis and whereby “slide” or “sliding” can be considered to generally refer to any material or mechanical property that permits that members, elements or parts thereof can move in any linear or longitudinal manner.

What is claimed is:

1. A collapsible rear projection screen assembly for a portable visual display device comprising a screen assembly that collapses into a closed condition suitable for easy transport by a simple folding movement between two or more screen sections and reduces or eliminates the risk of optical or physical damage to the screen member during collapsing and achieves these by comprising a flexible viewing screen member that is held to be flat by its permanent attachment to the four sides of a surrounding rectangular frame member that is composed of rigid frame elements connected by jointing means and where the jointing means feature axes of rotation that can be considered to be virtual or pseudo-virtual or that may move out of the physical section of the frame elements and thereby permitting rotation in a folding manner of up to 180 degrees between sections of the screen assembly and whereby the viewing screen member and/or its attachment means may extend outwards to at least partially overlap the frame jointing means and also whereby the elements of the jointing means by their shape or by their operation will provide a hollow into which the screen member can pass during the rotation of the jointing element to the closed position and thus avoiding potential damage to the material of the screen member by crushing or other contact.

2. A screen assembly as claims in claim 1, wherein the viewing screen member attachment means and the screen frame jointing means are essentially contained within or mounted on a rear non-visible surface of the screen frame elements.

3. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screen member comprises flexible screen supporting elements that may be additional parts of integral elements of the screen attachment means that provide support to the screen member across any gaps in the attachment means associated with the jointing means between the screen frame elements.

4. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the jointing means, the screen frame member and the screen attachment means are configured to permit the material of the screen member to roll into a lightly rolled fold as the screen sections rotate around the axes of the jointing means to avoid damage to the physical or optical properties of the material of the viewing screen member during movement between the open and closed conditions.

5. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screen assembly includes attached fold-guide elements that can be brought into a position adjacent and parallel to the axis of rotation of the screen assembly sections such as to act as a support or guide to the screen member material as it folds around the fold-guide element during the rotation of the screen assembly sections during the closing action and when in the closed condition.

6. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein sections of the screen assembly may rotate about at least two axes of which at least two are essentially parallel.

7. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein section of the screen assembly may rotate around two parallel axes and a third perpendicular axis.

8. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein two axes of rotation of the screen sections intersect, the fold-guide members are configured to fold or bend in a controlled manner and parallel with the second intersecting axis of rotation such that the edge of the fold guide member and the screen material that is wrapped around it will curve into a “U” shape and whereby the edge of the base of this “U” forms an approximately semi-toroidal shape such as to permit the wrapped material of the screen member to effectively fold in two planes without pinch points or stress damage.

9. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein frame supporting panels are attached by jointing means to the screen frame elements and each frame supporting panel is connected by jointing means to the neighboring frame supporting panel on the opposing side of each frame joint such that when the frame supporting panels are opened outwards towards an approximate perpendicular position then the connected frame supporting panels and their jointing means will effectively lock the screen assembly in the open condition.

10. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein some or all of the axes of rotation of the jointing means between the frame supporting panel members are configured to fall essentially parallel and coincident or adjacent to the axes of the jointing means of the screen assembly when the frame supporting panel members are closed flat against the screen member thus permitting the screen assembly and frame supporting panel to fold together.

11. A screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screen assembly is configured to deploy to the open condition or collapse to the closed condition as a complete and integral assembly.

12. A visual display device comprising a screen assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screen assembly is mounted on a base member suitable for placing on any suitable surface such that the base member provides support to retain the screen assembly in an upstanding position when in the open condition and where the base member may also serve of the attachment of a projection device.

13. A visual display device comprising a screen assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the base member is configured to serve as a base enclosure member and is hingedly attached to the screen assembly such that the collapsed screen assembly may retract into the base enclosure member.

14. A visual display device comprising a screen assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein the base enclosure member comprises mechanisms including mechanical or motorised means to assist or execute the opening or closing of the screen assembly.

15. A portable visual display as claimed in claim 14, wherein the base enclosure member contains projection means that may be installed integrally or installed as a removable unit.

16. A portable visual display device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the base enclosure member comprises a lid to which may be attached a mirror to fold back the light path such as to reduce the physical distance from the projection means to the viewable screen member.

17. A portable visual display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a collapsible light shielding member is hingebly